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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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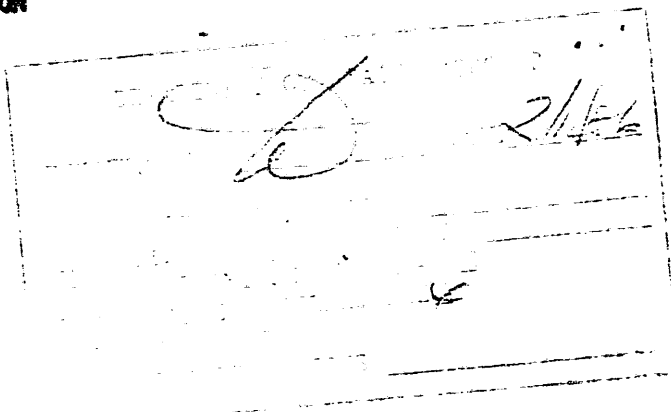
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INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 RP-10 HA-05 ER-04
AIO-05 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
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TAGS: SREF, SHUN, AF, PK, US, UNGCR

SUBJECT: AFGHAN REFUGEE PROGRAM - NEED FOR REALISTIC
UNHCR RESPONSE

REF: 79 GENEVA 20581

1. APPRECIATE REF A REPORT ON STATUS UNHCR REFUGEE PROGRAM
IN PAKISTAN, BUT CONCERNED AT BUSINESS AS USUAL APPROACH
REFLECTED PARA 5 PRIOR DE HAAN'S READING RIOT ACT TO
ASIA SECTION. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY UNHCR
DID NOT BEGIN UPWARD REVISION OF ITS RELIEF PLAN MUCH

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SOONER AS NUMBERS OF REFUGEES STEADILY GREW. USG, AS YOU

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ARE AWARE, HAS TRIED TO PROD UNHCR ON THE AFGHAN PROBLEM THROUGH YOUR REPRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DEPTOFF DAVIDSON AND HCR PROGRAM OFFICERS. NOW, WHEN A RELIEF PLAN SHOULD BE READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, IT APPEARS UNHCR HAS TO RETURN TO THE DRAWING BOARD.

2. THE NEW PLAN SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR MORE THAN THE APPROXIMATELY 500,000 REFUGEES AT PRESENT, SINCE THE SOVIET INVASION COULD WELL RESULT IN MUCH LARGER NUMBERS OF AFGHANS FLEEING THE HOSTILITIES. CONTINUED UNDERESTIMATING OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM BY THE UNHCR COULD RESULT IN LOSS OF LIVES, ESPECIALLY DURING THE SEVERE WINTER.

3. MISSION SHOULD MAKE ABOVE POINTS FORCEFULLY TO UNHCR EMPHASIZING THE URGENCY FOR A PLAN WHICH IS REALISTIC.

PLAN SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR POSSIBLE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES. VANCE

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